

March 24, 2009

The Honorable Bert Johnson, Chair  
House Committee on Regulatory Reform  
589 House Office Building  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Chairman Johnson:

In response to questions posed at your committee's hearing of Wednesday, March 18, please find information enclosed addressing each question.

Representative Melton inquired on nuances of each state law. Every state has enacted a slightly different version of the smokefree law. Enclosed please find a map and chart of the United States depicting the various exemptions by state. This is an updated version of the map provided by Dr. Al-Mallah.

Representative Jones commented on the need for an exemption for veterans' organization from the proposed smokefree bills. Enclosed please find a copy of the statement from the VFW's National Commander rejecting the notion that VFW halls be exempt from smokefree laws.

Finally, I wanted to repeat the powerful information provided to your committee on Friday, March 20 by Dr. Al-Mallah. In his study completely last year, Dr. Al-Mallah reported Michigan would recognize a 12% reduction in heart attacks in the first year after the smokefree law was enacted. Based on the average DRG rate for heart attack admittance, **this represents a savings of \$75 million for the first year the smokefree law is in effect.**

Thank you for the opportunity to present this information. Should you have further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



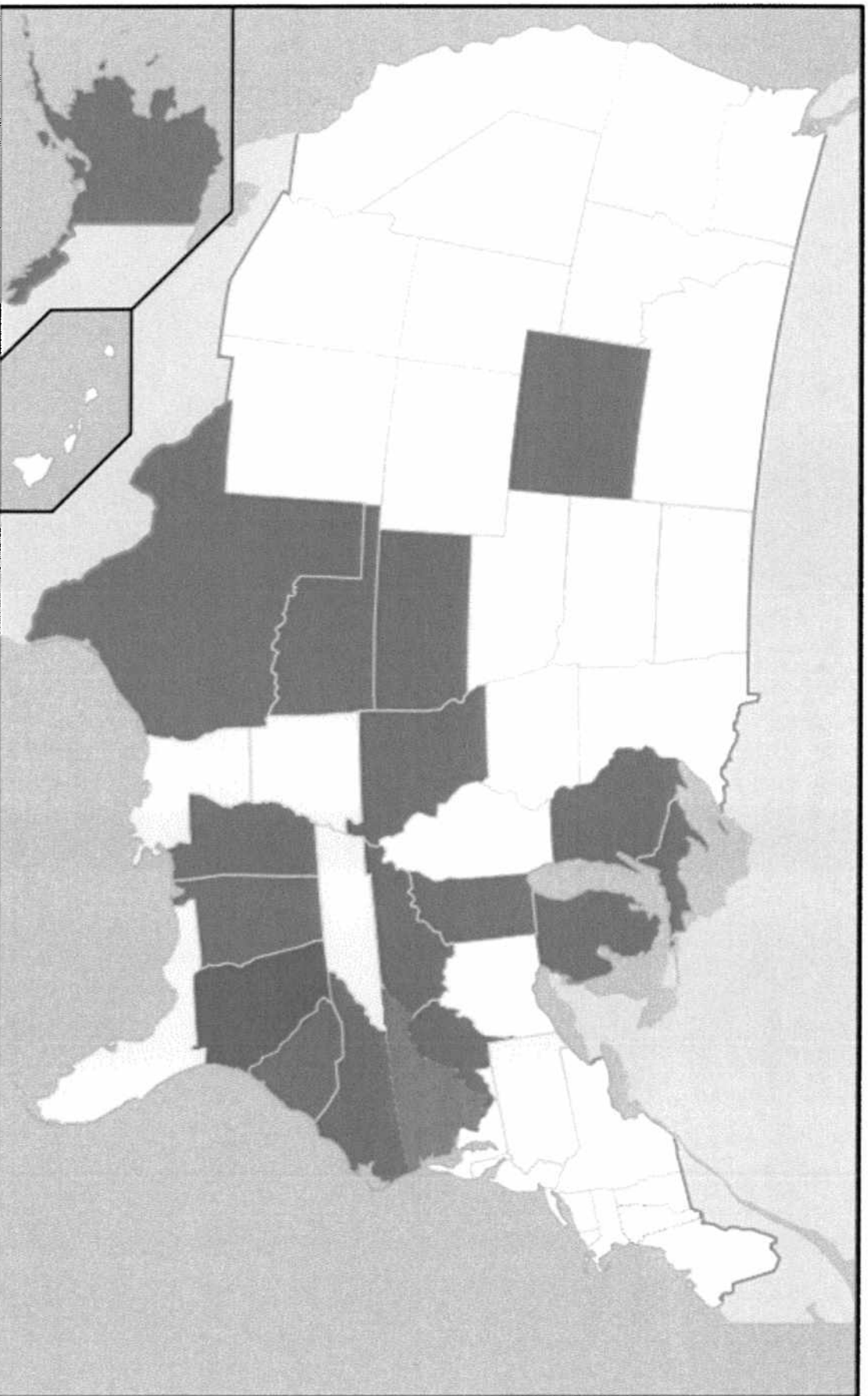
Peter B. Ruddell

Enclosures

cc: Members of the House Committee on Regulatory Reform  
Mr. Eric Esch  
Representative Paul Scott  
Representative Dian Slavens  
Representative Joan Bauer  
Representative Lee Gonzales

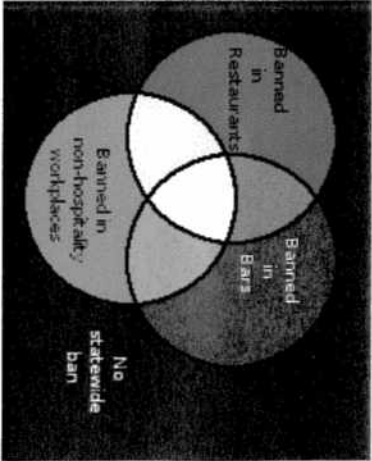
## U.S. Smokefree Workplace State Legislation

	Smokefree Offices	Smokefree Restaurants	Smokefree Bars	Casinos and Gaming (non-Indian)
Arizona	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arkansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
California	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Connecticut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Georgia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gaming not permitted
Idaho	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Illinois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Iowa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Louisiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Montana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nevada	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ohio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Smokefree Laws in the United States

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_smoking\\_bans\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_smoking_bans_in_the_United_States)



## **Alaskan Elected VFW's New National Commander: Kurpius Takes Helm During Annual Convention**

*RENO, Nev., Aug. 31, 2006*--The nation's largest association of combat veterans has elected Gary Kurpius its new national commander during the Veterans of Foreign War's annual convention in Reno, Nev. He is the first national commander from Alaska.

During his acceptance speech, the Vietnam veteran signaled out each generation of warriors—World War II to the War on Terrorism—praising each for their personal sacrifices and for helping shape and protect democracy worldwide.

Noting the generational differences between past and current soldiers, Kurpius stressed that today's soldier is more likely to have a family than the single soldier of previous generations. This, he said, challenges VFW posts worldwide to rethink the way the posts operate and become more family friendly.

"Comrades, membership drives everything we do, but we won't get a new generation — or even the older generation — to join us if we don't recognize and adapt to the changing world around us," he said, reminding the VFW delegates that the new generation of Iraqi and Afghanistan veterans do not need the VFW.

"There has to be something that the VFW can provide to the community that makes people want to come to us," he said, encouraging posts to explore unconventional and enterprising ideas such as Cyber Cafes, day care centers and fitness centers. "With so little free time, if the new generation does get involved in the VFW, they will want to participate in programs that benefit the entire family."

**But he stressed that as long as smoking is still permitted indoors, "no one will want to join a VFW health club ... or bring their children to a VFW day care center ... or log-on at a VFW Cyber Café."**

**"We are a democratic organization that is letting 20 percent of the population tell us that the post will fail if people can't smoke inside. That's bunk," he said. "I know many VFW members and spouses who will not attend post meetings or events because of the smoke. I have read many articles about the VFW being the last building in town where indoor smoking is still permitted ... and some members quoted in the newspaper are celebrating as if they just won a great battle against government and social interference. Comrades, that is not a victory, it is a sad commentary that unfortunately paints all of us with the same brush." [Emphasis Added]**

In announcing his theme for his election year, Kurpius reminded the convention delegates that the VFW is a "service organization first and foremost," which is why he chose as his theme, "Veteran's First."

"The VFW's future rests with attracting new members who want to believe that the VFW is more than just a bar ... and who want to believe that the VFW is an organization that

regards change as a recognition of the future and not a criticism of the past,” Kurpius added.

During the Vietnam War, the Army veteran served with the 541st Transportation Company providing convoy security throughout the central highlands. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze service stars and the Republic of Vietnam Service Medal.

In 1970, he joined VFW Post 1539 in Babbitt, Minn., where he became a life member in 1976. He earned the title of All-American Post Commander in 1977, and in 1983 was named All-American District Commander. In 1985, he transferred to VFW Post 9785 in Eagle River, Alaska, later becoming a Life Member of VFW Post 9365 in Wasilla.

A former service officer for the Department of Alaska service officer, Kurpius was elected Department commander and earned All-American Department Commander status in 2001.

He is a member of the Military Order of the Cootie, American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America. In 1999, he received the Alaska Community Service Medal.

He was selected Vietnam Veteran of the Year for St. Louis County in Minnesota by President Jimmy Carter and, more recent, completed a governor-appointed two-year term to the Alaska Veterans Advisory Council.

During his year-long term, Kurpius will log thousands of miles to promote the VFW, veterans' issues and quality of life initiatives for active-duty, Reserve and Guard members. By the time the commander's term ends, he will have visited every state and numerous overseas areas.

Also elected were George Lisicki, senior vice commander-in-chief, and Glen Gardner, junior vice commander-in-chief.

The VFW was founded in 1899. The 2.4 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliaries are located in 8,500 VFW Posts worldwide. Through a system of service officers, it assists all veterans and their families in obtaining veterans entitlements and other services. As an organization of former servicemen and women, the VFW remains committed to our national security and the well being of those serving on active duty, in the National Guard and the Reserves.

*by Gloria Montgomery, VFW Communications*

Source: <http://www.vfw.org/index.cfm?fa=news.newsDtl&did=3584>